

## Conservation Measures for Dune Walkover Construction

May 2017

1. Walkovers/Boardwalks. Dune walkovers shall be constructed at a height (minimum three feet above grade – higher if habitat has been impacted from storms) to accommodate natural dune growth and associated vegetation.
2. Equipment storage. No storage of equipment or materials shall occur on the beach or dunes throughout the entire year. Build into the walkover structure if needed.
3. Construction. A top down construction method should be utilized. This would limit human and mechanical impacts to the dunes by allowing the new construction to progress outward from the previous construction.
4. Sea turtle nesting. No walkover/boardwalk construction shall occur on the beach during the sea turtle nesting season from May 1 through November 1.
5. Sand fence. Minimal use of sand fence is encouraged. When used, the fence must be used for restoration of dune blowouts. Post and rope is preferred for beach visitor access, pedestrian traffic control, and wildlife exclusion zones (i.e., bird wintering areas). If used for dune restoration, the fence shall be placed in a sea turtle compatible design, be made of biodegradable material, and removed as dunes begin to form and vegetation begins to grow.
6. Dune protection. No activity, except as needed to repair the walkover/boardwalk, shall occur on existing healthy dunes during any time of the year. Limit activities within this area to maintenance and restoration of the habitat. Use appropriate signs to designate and indicate the purpose of the conservation area, if necessary.
7. Restoration. If dune restoration is needed for the dune walkover construction project, contact the USFWS Panama City Field Office for further assistance.
8. Refuse. Install and maintain sturdy animal-proof garbage containers at the entrance to the boardwalk or preferable in the parking lot (if applicable) to prevent the invasion of house mice, non-native rats and predators (cats, raccoons, fox, coyotes). No garbage containers on beach side.
9. Lighting. No lighting shall be utilized on the dune walkover.



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